

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00903 111334Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07 INR-07 L-03 /045 W

----- 089637

R 111040Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4395

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 903

STADIS//////////

FOR DEP ASST SECRETARY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECON, CE

SUBJECT: INITIAL PAYMENT REQUIRED ON PL 480 AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 58388

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE REFTTEL WHICH, FRANKLY, IS THE FIRST MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT DURING PERIOD OF OUR INQUIRIES WHICH HAS PUT WHOLE MATTER OF P.L. 480 INITIAL PAYMENTS IN PERSPECTIVE. NOW WE HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF WHERE SRI LANKA STANDS ON THIS QUESTION, AN INDICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT, AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF RATIONALE FOR HERETOFORE INEXPLICABLE TREASURY POSITION. LACK OF SUCH INFORMATION MADE DISCUSSIONS WITH GSL DIFFICULT AT THIS END.

2. WE WILL AWAIT RECEIPT OF AMENDMENT TO NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INFORMING GSL, WHICH HAS BEEN MOST ANXIOUS FOR RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM IN ORDER BEGIN PLANNING TIMING OF FLOUR SHIPMENTS.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOU AND SPIKE DUBS, AND THROUGH YOU TO JOHN MURPHY AND ART GARDINER FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT YOU HAVE

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DEVOTED TO THIS MATTER. SOMETIMES THE PROBLEMS OF

SMALLER COUNTRIES LOOM LARGER AND SEEM HARDER TO
RESOLVE THAN THOSE OF THE LARGE. IT IS HEARTENING
TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE HAD A FAIR HEARING.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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